

Message Text

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TAGS: ECON, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET WORKERS FACE CHALLENGE OF ANNUAL SOCIALIST
COMPETITION

1. CENTRAL PRESS JANUARY 11 PUBLISHED FULL-PAGE DECREE ISSUED JOINTLY BY CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, TRADE UNION AND KOMSOMOL ORGANIZATIONS ENTITLED: "CONCERNING THE ALL-UNION SOCIALIST COMPETITION OF WORKERS IN INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION, AND TRANSPORT FOR AHEAD-OF-SCHEDULE FULFILLMENT OF THE 1975 ECONOMIC PLAN AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE NINTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN." COMPANION DECREE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WAS ALSO ADOPTED BY ABOVE-LISTED GROUPS AND WAS PUBLISHED SEPARATELY. EARLY JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF YEARLY SOCIALIST COMPETITIONS HAS BECOME ANNUAL "TRADITION" IN RECENT YEARS, AND LATEST DECREE CONTAINS NO SURPRISES.

2. INDUSTRIAL COMPETITION WILL ENCOMPASS WORKERS IN FIELDS OF
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FUELS/ENERGY; METALLURGY; MACHINEBUILDING; CHEMICAL AND PETRO-

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES; TIMBER, WOOD-PROCESSING, AND PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRIES; LIGHT AND FOOD INDUSTRIES; CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES; GEOLOGY; TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS; INTERNAL TRADE; AND SUPPLY. WORKERS IN SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION INSTITUTIONS WILL HAVE THEIR OWN COMPETITION.

3. AS IN PAST YEARS, MAIN THRUST OF COMPETITION WILL BE ON ENCOURAGING HIGHER QUALITY PRODUCTION, TOGETHER WITH USE OF LESS RAW MATERIALS, FUEL, AND ELECTRICITY. SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH WORKERS WILL COMPETE FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF MORE RAPID INTRODUCTION OF HIGH-QUALITY INNOVATIONS INTO PRODUCTION.

4. IN ADDITION TO USUAL "MORAL" AWARDS TO WINNING COLLECTIVES (CHIEFLY MEDALS), THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION ENVISAGES AWARDING-- THROUGH ALL-UNION TRADE UNIONS COUNCIL--90,000 TOURIST TRIPS THROUGHOUT USSR AND "ABROAD". KOMSOMOL WILL HAVE ANOTHER 15,000 SUCH TRIPS AVAILABLE AS PRIZES. ALL TRIPS WILL BE AWARDED ON BASIS OF AHEAD-OF-SCHEDULE FULFILLMENT OF NINTH FYP GOALS BY INDIVIDUAL WORKERS.

5. COMMENT: ON BASIS EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE NUMBER FREE VACATIONS TO BE AWARDED COMPETITION WINNERS (105,000), EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT PARTY LEADERSHIP PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT IT BE ABLE TO PARADE LARGE NUMBER OF HERO-WORKERS BEFORE POPULACE AT END OF YEAR AS EXAMPLES OF WHAT SOVIET WORKERS CAN ACHIEVE (I.E., FYP FULFILLMENT IN GIVEN JOB OR FACTORY) WHEN THEY PUT SHOULDER TO WHEEL. (THIS WILL TAKE PLACE OF FULSOME PRAISE FOR OVERALL FYP ACHIEVEMENT BY INDUSTRY, SOMETHING WHICH IS LESS THAN LIKELY.)

6. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS FACT THAT SOCIALIST COMPETITION HAS NOW APPARENTLY BECOME SOLIDLY RE-INSTITUTIONALIZED AS PARTY'S ANSWER TO KEY ECONOMIC QUESTION: HOW TO GET SOVIET WORKERS TO WORK HARDER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY. THAT THIS APPROACH HAS HAD LITTLE ACTUAL EFFECT IN PAST APPEARS TO BE OF MINOR CONSEQUENCE TO PARTY LEADERSHIP; AT LEAST IT DOES NOT SMACK OF REFORM.

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